

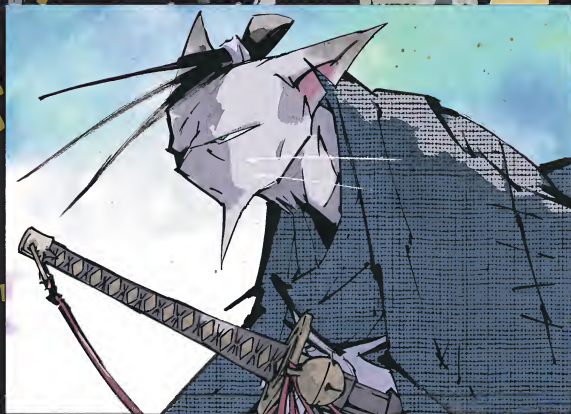
NekoGatHarō

STRAY CAT
SAMURAI



2

HIROYUKI TAKEI
CREATOR OF SHAMAN KING



NekkoGoHoro

CHAPTER 3:
STUMPED



HIROYUKI
TAKEI



CHAPTER 7: STUMPED	PAGE 1
CHAPTER 8: AU NATUREL ENEMIES	PAGE 29
CHAPTER 9: SHORT CAKE. ACT ONE	PAGE 59
CHAPTER 10: SHORT CAKE. ACT TWO	PAGE 75
CHAPTER 11: SHORT CAKE. ACT THREE	PAGE 95
EXTRA CHAPTER: BEARING TROUBLE AWAY BY BEARING TALES	PAGE 137
SPECIAL MANGA IN HONOR OF THE NEKOGAHARA/ NOBUNYAGA'S AMBITION COLLABORATION	PAGE 156
TRANSLATION NOTES	PAGE 176



...EH?



WHAT
HAVE WE
HERE? I
THOUGHT I
JUST SLICED
A PRIEST.





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Nekogahara

CHAPTER 7:
STUMPED

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HIROYUKI
TAKEI





I
WOULD
LIKE TO
HAVE
A WORD
WITH YOU,
NORACHIYO-
SAN.

EXCUSE
ME.







REALLY?

BUT YOU
HELPED
THE KITTEN
AT THE
TEAHOUSE.



KEH
HEH
HEH...

I'M A
TOM WHO
LIKES TO
REPAY HIS
DEBTS.



...IF
SHE'S
A SUS-
PICIOUS
MOLLY
LIKE
YOU...

...SPORT-
ING A PEG-
LEG THAT'S
PRACTICALLY
SCREAMING
THAT IT HAS
A SECRET.

OUT
OF THE
WAY,
KITTEN.
I'M
IN A
HURRY.

SO
THERE
YOU
HAVE IT.

HE
ALSO
TOLD ME
THAT'S
WHY I
HAD TO
TAKE THIS
MISSION.

...LITTLE-
FOLD
TOLD ME
YOU'D SAY
THAT.

I HATE
TO TELL
YOU, BUT
HEADSTRONG
MOLLIES LIKE
YOU AREN'T
MY TYPE.

...WELL,
WELL.
ARE YOU
GOING TO
SEDUCE ME?

THE
REASON
I WAS
CHOSEN
FOR THIS
JOB...

...DON'T GET
ANY FUNNY
IDEAS, YOU
DIRTY OLD
TOM.



JUST
SO YOU
KNOW, I
MISSED
ON
PURPOSE.



HEH HEH...
YOU THINK
YOU CAN
TAKE ME BY
FORCE?

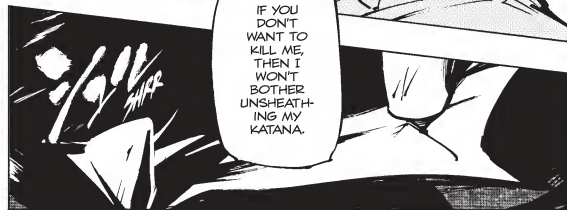
YOU
MUST
THINK
I'M AN
AMATEUR.

GET IT
NOW? HE SENT
ME BECAUSE
I HAVE THE
SKILL TO HURT
YOU WITHOUT
KILLING
YOU.



IN
OTHER
WORDS, AS
LONG AS
I'M ALIVE,
I WILL
NEVER
LOSE.

LISTEN
TO ME,
KITTEN.
IN BATTLE,
IT'S KILL OR
BE KILLED-
ALWAYS.



IF YOU
DON'T
WANT TO
KILL ME,
THEN I
WON'T
BOTHER
UNSHEATH-
ING MY
KATANA.



...IS
THAT
I'M A
RIDICU-
LOUSLY
GOOD
FIGHTER
!!!

SHURIKEN

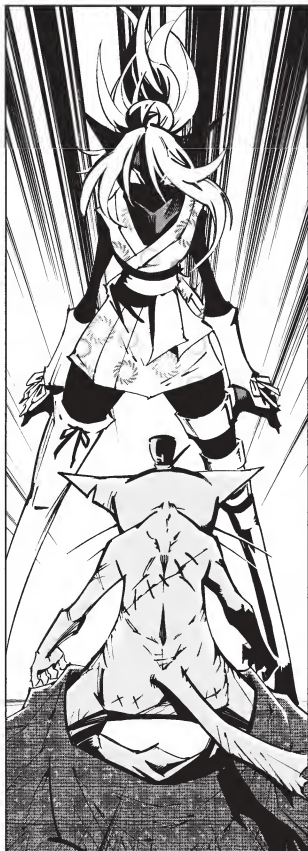
THANK
YOU
THANK
YOU

HEAD-
STRONG
FEMALES
AREN'T MY
TYPE.

BUT
I DO
ENJOY
PINNING
THEM
UNDER
ME.

BUT I WILL
UNSHOEATHE
SOMETHING
ELSE.

DU-
DUN





THIS IS
GETTING
INTEREST-
ING!

THEN
LET'S
DO
THIS
!!!



YOU...!

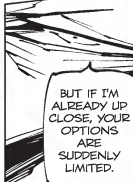
...YOU'VE
NEVER
SEEN ONE
OF THESE
BEFORE?

OH,
COME ON.
YOUR
EYES ARE
WANDERING.

DOES
THAT
MEAN...



YOUR LEGS ARE AS FLEXIBLE AS A WHIP.





THAT'S
WHY
I LURED
YOU IN
CLOSE.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

GHING
TO:
AND NOT
WITH MY
LONG
SWORD
OR MY
WAKIZASHI,
BUT WITH
THIS.

BUT
I DO
THINK
YOU
SHOULD
HAVE
ASKED
WHAT MY
FALSE
LEG WAS
HIDING.

HA...

YOU
REALLY
ARE AN
INFUR-
ATINGLY
DIRTY
OLD
TOM.

KAC
POP



YOU
STUPID
FUR-
BALL
!!!!

KA-THWACK

IF YOU
KILL ME,
I CAN'T
BED
YOU!!!



How...



BAM



HOW
COULD
YOU...

YOU
WOULD
PUNCH
A MOLLY
IN THE
FACE?



MRRR-
OOOW-
WRR!

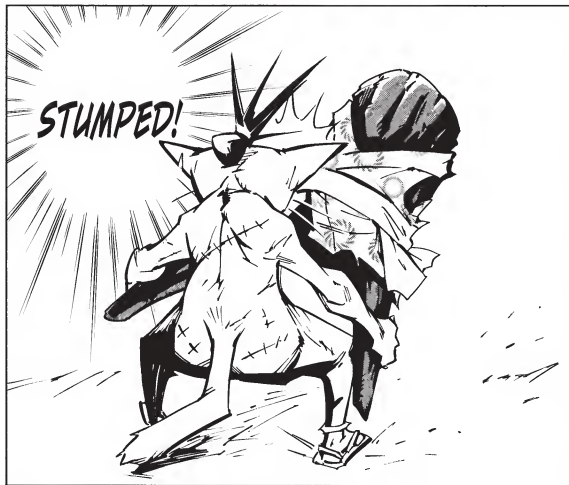


NICE.

I'VE
NEVER
LAID A
SHINOBI
BEFORE.



...WHAT'S
THIS? IS
THAT WHAT
TURNED ON
THE HEAT?



STUMPED!



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Nekogata Haro

CHAPTER 8:
AU NATUREL
ENEMIES



I HAVE NO
DOUBT THAT
HE IS THE
ONE WHO
SLEW YOUR
SON'S COM-
PANIONS.

YES,
YOUR
LORD-
SHIP!

...SO
HE HAS
VISITED
MY
TOWN.

HMPH...



HIMEMASU
CASTLE

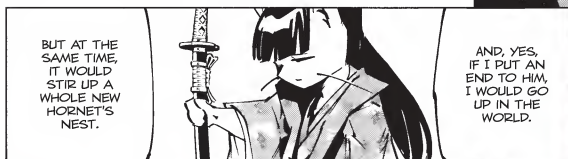
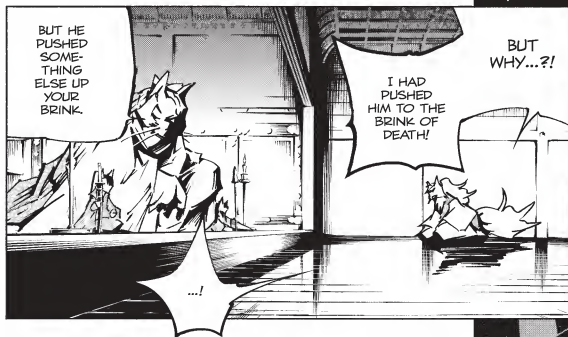


...AMEMURA
RICAN
SHORT-
NO-
KAMI-
DONO!

SHAKE-
GAWA
SHOGUN...

WON'T YOU
ALLOW THE
HUMBLE
SHISHIWAKA
TO LEAD THE
HUNT FOR
THE WANTED
CRIMINAL
NORACHIYO?

I HAD HIS
BELL AS
PROOF, BUT
IT HAS BEEN
TAKEN FROM
ME. NEVER-
THELESS,



BUT...
BUT RICAN-
DONO! WE
MUSTN'T
LET THAT
OUTLAW
ROAM
FREE!

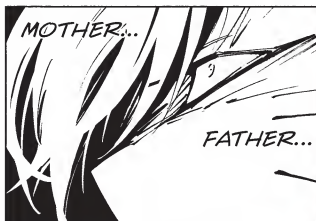
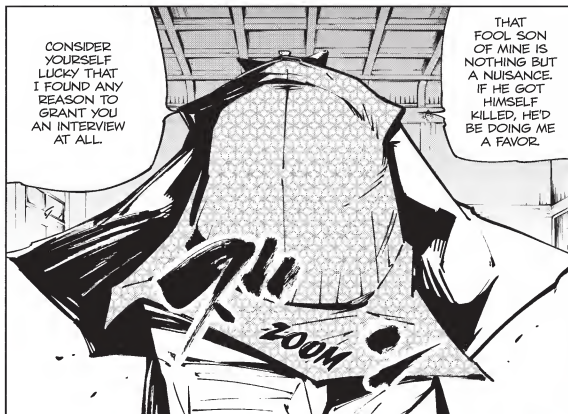
BESIDES,
YOUR
HONORABLE
SON HAS
ALREADY
SET OUT TO
AVENGE HIS
FRIENDS!

IF I COULD
AT LEAST
ACT AS
HIS BODY-
GUARD...!



WHICH
IS TO
SAY...

...I LIKE
THINGS
JUST FINE
THE WAY
THEY ARE
NOW.



THERE
ARE SOME
BAD GUYS
THAT YOU
CHOOSE
TO KEEP
AROUND.

YOU
JUST
DON'T
GET IT,
DO YA?

GOAT
F-
Z

SHISHIWAKA,
YOU ARE NO
LONGER OUR
SON.

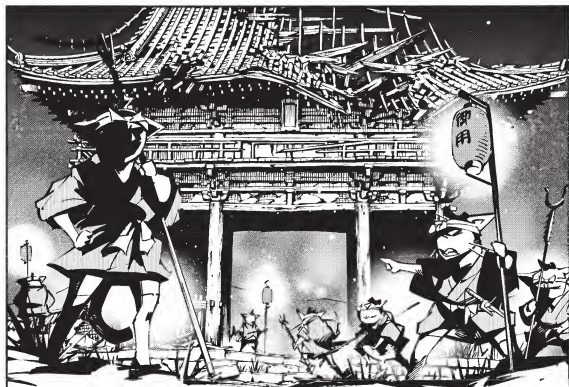
RICAN-
DONO!
PLEASE,
WAIT!

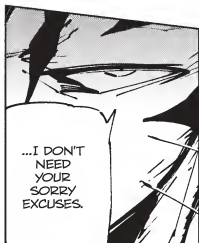
NO...!



I'M
KURO-
GANE
HYOE.

IF YOU WANT,
YOU CAN GO
A ROUND
WITH ME,
PRETTY BOY.





HE'S ALIVE AND KICKING AND HUMPING A STUMP. ALREADY. HE'S GONE WAY PAST ANYTHING I COULD IMAGINE.

HE'S REALLY ALIVE.



YOU
CAN BET
I'M NOT
GONNA
TELL ANY-
ONE, AND
NO ONE'S
CRITICIZING
HERE.

DIFFERENT
STROKES
FOR
DIFFERENT
FOLKS AND
ALL THAT.

WHAT YOU
USE FOR
PLEASURE
IS NONE
OF MY
BUSINESS.

I TOLD YOU,
THIS IS THE
WORK OF A
SHINOBI.

ARE YOU
LISTENING
TO A WORD
I'M SAYING,
YOU MANGY
MOG?

...TCH.
COME ON.
NINJAS?
SERIOUSLY?
YOU SOUND
SO
DESPERATE,
IT'S CREEPY.

ARE YOU
SURE...

ZSHH...



...YOU
MAY BE
ON TO
SOME-
THING.



QUIT
MESSING
WITH ME!
PUT THAT
DOWN AND
GET SOME
CLOTHES
ON!

I'VE NEVER
SEEN A
MOLLY THAT
SLIM AND
WITH SUCH BIG
JUGS, AND I
AM ALMOST
OUT OF THE
STUFF.

WHAT DO
YOU SAY?
SPARE ME
A TWIG?



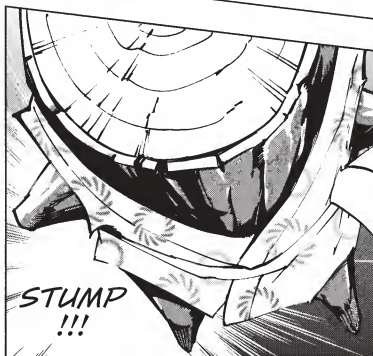
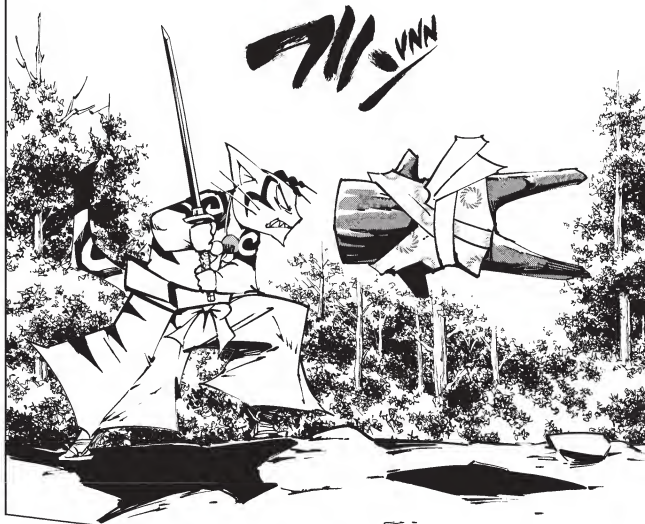
I'M
READY
TO
MURDER
YOU
RIGHT
NOW!!!

I'M
TIRED
OF
WAITING.



...MAKING
YOU
HALLUCIN-
ATE
AGAIN?

...IT'S
NOT
THE
NIP...





DOG-GONE IT!





A close-up, high-contrast black and white illustration of a character's face. The character has long, dark, spiky hair and a wide-eyed, intense expression. A speech bubble is positioned above the character's head.

IF YOU
REALLY
WANT TO
KILL ME,
THEN STOP
TALKING
AND DO
IT!

A close-up, high-contrast black and white illustration of a character's face. The character has long, dark, spiky hair and a wide-eyed, intense expression. A speech bubble is positioned below the character's head.

OR
YOU'LL
END UP
HAVING
TO FIGHT
ME.





GAH...!
HAGH!

WAIT,
DAMN
YOU!



WHY
AM I SO
POPULAR
TODAY? I'M
TRYING TO
CONVA-
LESCE
HERE.

DAMN...

FWOOSH



...



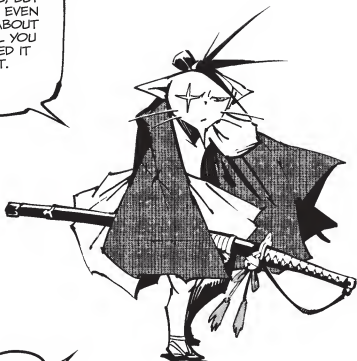
WHY
DON'T YOU
JUST KILL
ME, RIGHT
HERE AND
NOW!!!

WHY
...!

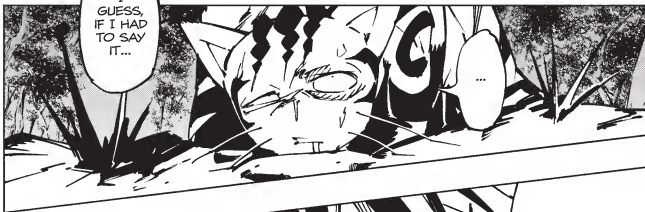


LOGICALLY,
I SHOULD
KILL YOU, BUT
I DIDN'T EVEN
THINK ABOUT
IT UNTIL YOU
POINTED IT
OUT.

...THAT'S
A GOOD
QUESTION.



I
GUESS,
IF I HAD
TO SAY
IT...



...IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
NOT
STUPID.



THAT'S NOT
A REASON!
COME BACK
HERE, DAMN
YOU!

DOG...

...GONE
IT!

I WON'T
REST...
UNTIL I'VE
AVENGED
MY TEAM!

YOU ALL
THINK YOU
CAN MAKE
A FOOL OUT
OF ME!



YOU DON'T
KNOW
WHEN
TO QUIT...

MAYBE
I REALLY
WILL
KILL Y-



...RED
WARRIOR

...







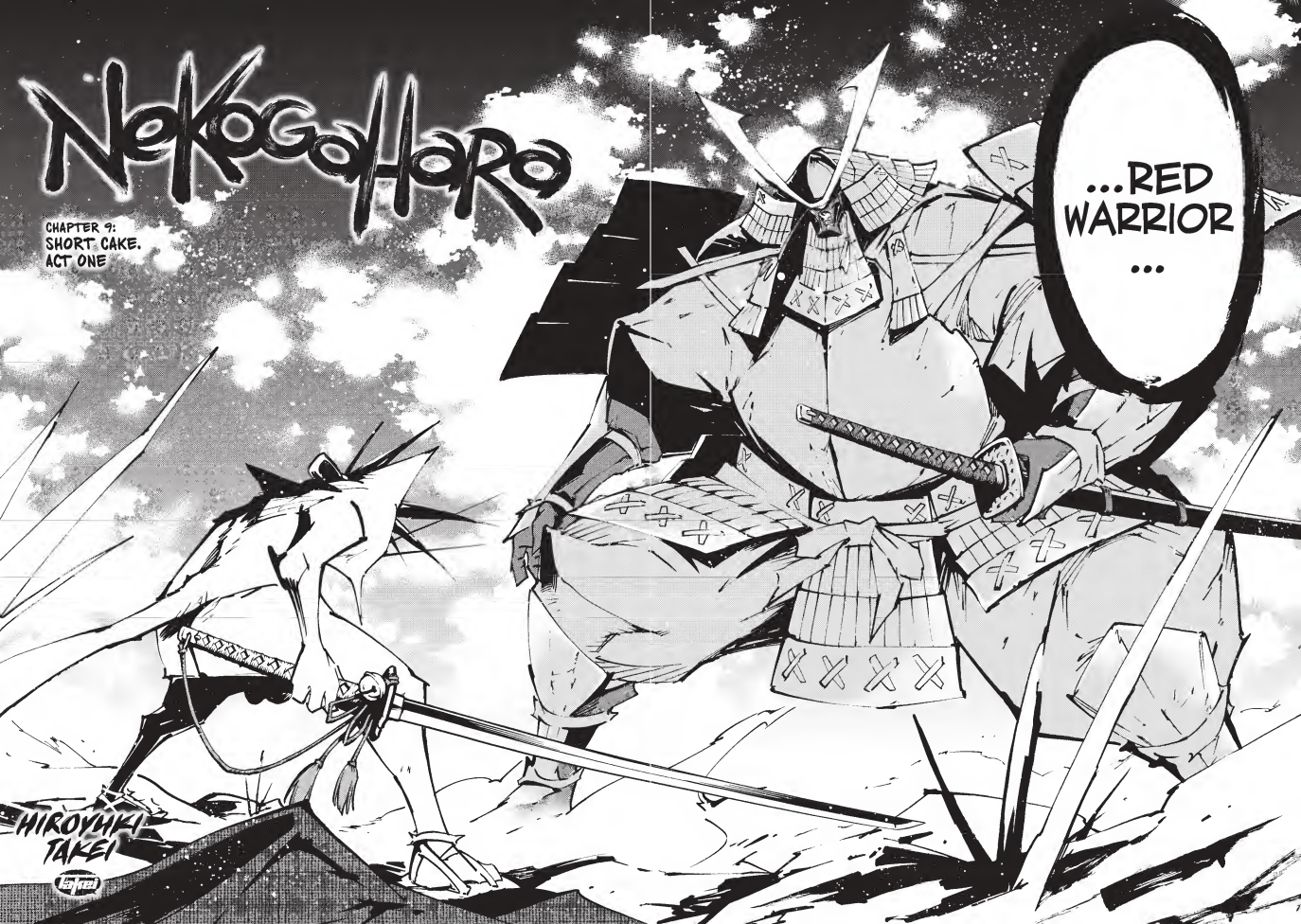
Nekogallara

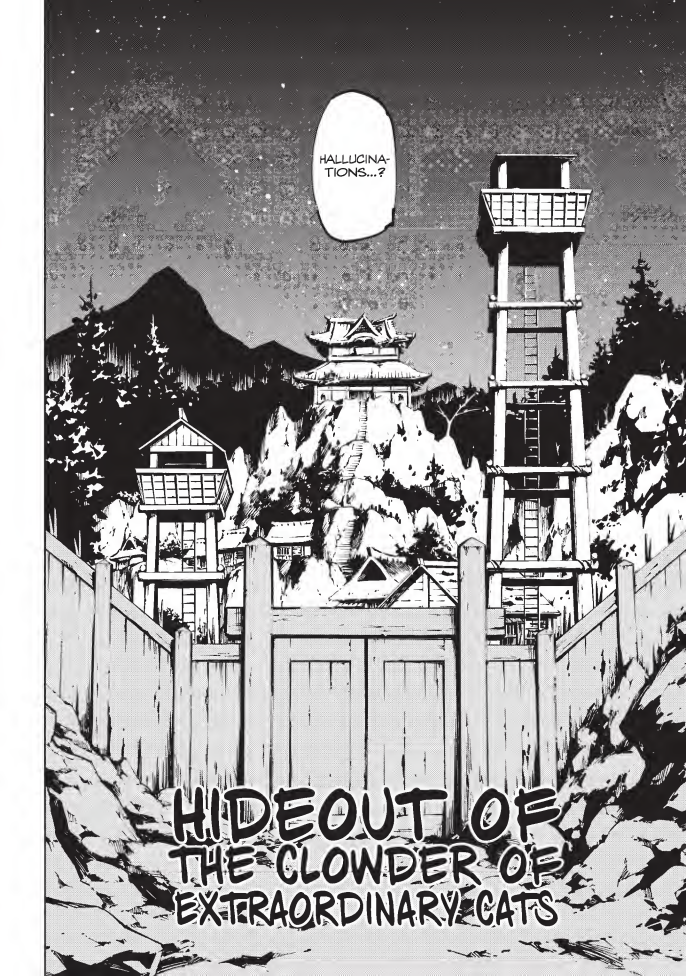
CHAPTER 9:
SHORT CAKE.
ACT ONE

...RED
WARRIOR
...

HIROYUKI
TAKEI

1st





HALLUCINA-
TIONS...?

HIDEOUT OF THE CLOWDER OF EXTRAORDINARY CATS



YES,
MUKURO.



THE FEAR
OF HAVING
ACCIDENTALLY
KILLED A
PERSON
HAUNTS HIM
TO THIS
DAY.

NORACHIYO
THE GOD-
SLAYER IS
PLAGUED BY
NIGHTMARES.

OF
COURSE.

A CAT
COULD
NEVER KILL
A PERSON
INTENTION-
ALLY.

...ACCIDEN-
TALLY?





THE PERSON
TRIED TO SHAKE
HIM OFF, BUT
NORACHIYO WAS
DESPERATE—HE
LATCHED ON
AND REFUSED
TO LOOSEN HIS
BITE.

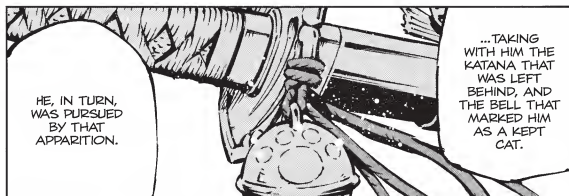
THAT FATEFUL DAY,
HE WAS DELIRIOUSLY
TRYING TO PROTECT
HIS MASTER, SO HE
POUNCED ON AN
ATTACKER, AND
FOR BETTER
OR WORSE, HIS
FANGS SANK INTO
THAT PERSON'S
THROAT.



WHEN
NORACHIYO
EVENTUALLY
CAME TO HIS
SENSES, WHAT HE
SAW WAS THAT
PERSON ON
THE FLOOR, HIS
THROAT COVERED
IN BLOOD. HIS
MASTER WAS
NOWHERE IN
SIGHT.

AND SO
NORACHIYO
SET OFF ON A
JOURNEY IN
PURSUIT OF HIS
MASTER...





HE, IN TURN,
WAS PURSUED
BY THAT
APPARITION.

...TAKING
WITH HIM THE
KATANA THAT
WAS LEFT
BEHIND, AND
THE BELL THAT
MARKED HIM
AS A KEPT
CAT.



THEN HE
WON'T GIVE
UP THE
DANGEROUS
PASTIME
BECAUSE...



EXACTLY.
HE'S TRYING
TO ESCAPE
THE
SPECTER.



IT COMES
TO HIM
WHEN THE
EFFECTS
OF THE 'NIP
WEAR OFF.



THE RED
WARRIOR.



...RED
WARRIOR...



WHAT'S
UP? FINALLY
READY TO
HAVE A
SERIOUS
CONVERSA-
TION?

HUH?



A
PERSON,
DYED
RED WITH
BLOOD.



BA-BAH

WHY
WON'T
YOU
JUST
LEAVE
ME
ALONE
!!!



LIKE
I DID
BEFORE...

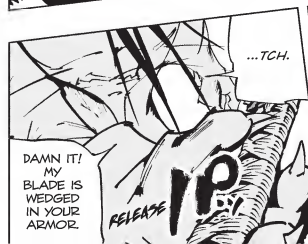
...WITH
MY
FANGS!

...FINE.
I CAN
MURDER
YOU WITH
OR WITH-
OUT MY
SWORD.



BUT
DOES
THIS
MOB
EVER
MISS?!

THAT
WAS
CLOSE!



...TCH.

DAMN IT!
MY
BLADE IS
WEDGED
IN YOUR
ARMOR.

RELEASE
IT!



...





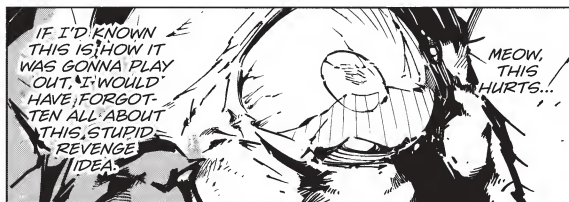
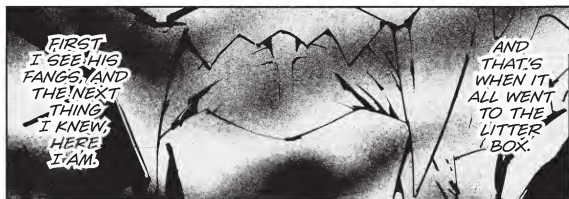
WHEEEZE

WHEEEZE

WHEEEZE

WHEEEZE





OH SCAT.
HERE HE
COMES
TO FINISH
ME OFF.



Nekogatahoro

HIROYUKI
TAKEI



CHAPTER 10:
SHORT CAKE.
ACT TWO

BUT
COME
ON...
HOW
CAN
THIS
OLD
TOM
BE SO
TOUGH
?

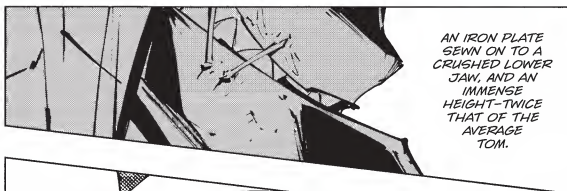
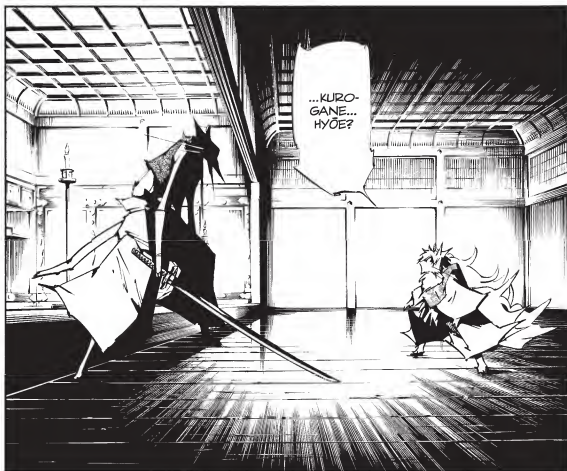
IF YOU
WANT,
YOU CAN
GO A
ROUND
WITH ME,
PRETTY
BOY.

I'M
KURO-
GANE
HYŌE.

YOU
JUST
DON'T
GET IT,
DO YA?

THERE
ARE SOME
BAD GUYS
THAT YOU
CHOOSE
TO KEEP
AROUND.

K.
24





I MUST BE
GETTING
FAMOUS.

...OH?

KRIK
KRIK
KRIK



IT'S THE
POUND
THAT'S
FAMOUS.

WAIT,
NO...

A PENAL
COLONY
FILLED YEAR-
ROUND WITH
TOXIC, VOLCANIC
SMOKE, WHERE,
TO SURVIVE,
FELONS FIGHT
TO THE DEATH
DAY IN AND
DAY OUT.

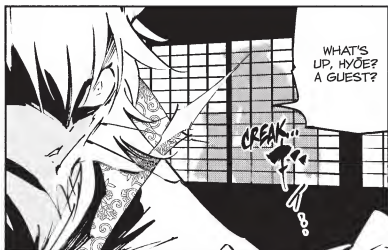
THE POUND.
AN ISLAND
WHERE THEY
SEND THE
WORST CATS-
THOSE WHO
HAVE BEEN
CONVICTED
OF THE MOST
HEINOUS OF
CRIMES.



IN OTHER
WORDS,
EXILE TO
THE POUND
IS A
VIRTUAL
DEATH
SENTENCE.

IT TAKES
SPECIAL
POWERS
FOR A
CAT TO
SURVIVE
THERE.







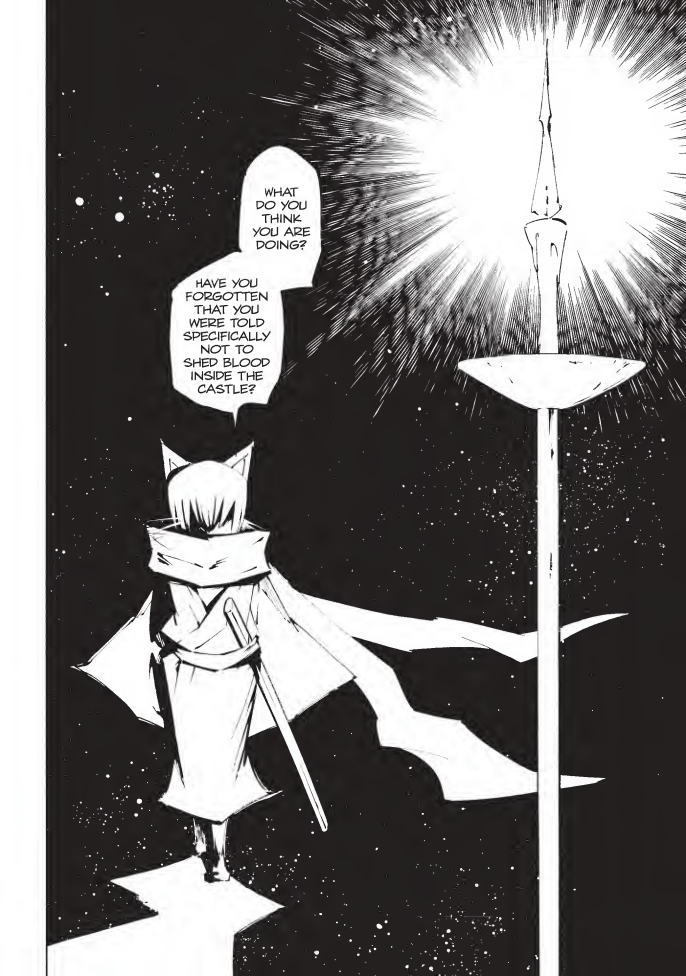
SHARE
WITH YOUR
ISLAND-
MATES,
WHY DON'T
YOU?

COME ON,
DON'T HOG
ALL THE
FUN, SCAT-
HOLE.



IT CAN'T
BE— DID
AMEMURA
RIGAN
SHORT-
NO.
RAMI
BRING
THEM
HERE?

...THAT'S
PREPOSTER-
OUS. SIX
CATS, ALL
SENTENCED
TO THE
POUND?



WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
YOU ARE
DOING?

HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
THAT YOU
WERE TOLD
SPECIFICALLY
NOT TO
SHED BLOOD
INSIDE THE
CASTLE?



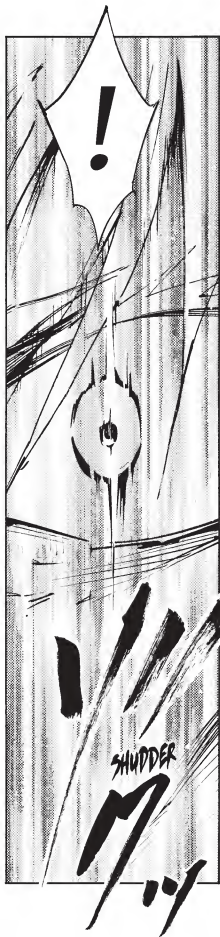
YEAH...
THAT'S
RIGHT.
IT'S JUST
A GAME.
WE WERE
PLAYING!

WHOA...WAIT
A MINUTE,
SHIRŌ-CHAN!
WE WERE ONLY
FUNNIN' HIM A
LITTLE, THAT'S
ALL!

NOTHING
TO PUFF
YOUR
TAIL UP
ABOUT,
AMAGAMI.

IS
THAT
SO?

...





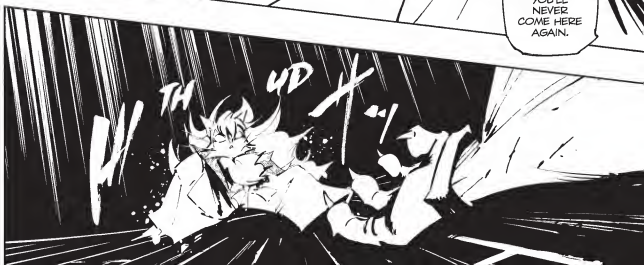
...I USED
THE BACK
OF MY
SWORD.



WIPE UP
EVERY
DROP OF
BLOOD
FROM THE
FLOOR.

AND
YOU.

IF YOU
VALUE
YOUR LIFE,
YOU'LL
NEVER
COME HERE
AGAIN.



WHAT
EVER YOU
DO, DO NOT
DEFY YOUR
FATHER

SHORT...

AMAGAMI
SHIRŌ...

THE
LEGENDARY
SWORDS-
FELINE WHO
IS SAID TO
HAVE DIED IN
A REVOLT
AGAINST THE
SHOGUNATE.

HA
...

HA
HA
...

HA
...

AM I
SEEING A
GHOST?



*THE
WORLD
IS
ROTTEN
WITH
TOUGH
GUYS.*

THERE'S
PHYSICAL
STRENGTH
AND SKILL,
OBVIOUSLY.

BUT
THEIR
STRENGTH
COMES
IN ALL
SHAPES
AND
SIZES.









**PURE
EVIL.**



**OR
TOTAL
IMMUNITY
TO THE
PANGS OF
CONSCIENCE—**





**AND
POWER.**

AND
WOULDN'T
YOU KNOW
IT, I AIN'T
GOT EVEN
ONE OF
THOSE.

Nekogahara

CHAPTER 10:
SHORT CAKE.
ACT THREE

HIROYUKI
TAKEI



...SO
WHAT'S HIS
STRENGTH?

WHAT
THE HELL
KIND OF
STRENGTH
MOVES HIM
FORWARD?



...AND NOW
I'M ABOUT
TO BE
OFFED BY
SOME OLD
MOG WITH
HIS JUNK
HANGING
OUT.

NOPE,
INSTEAD,
I GO
PICKING
FIGHTS
WITH CATS
I GOT NO
BUSINESS
TANGLING
WITH...

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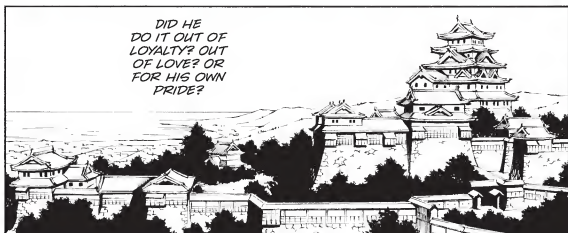
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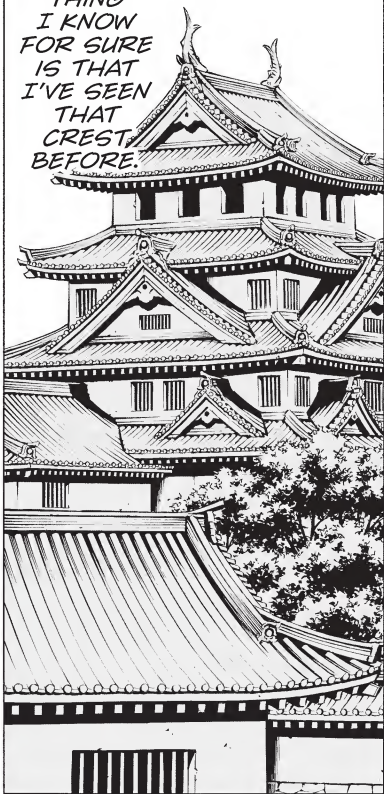
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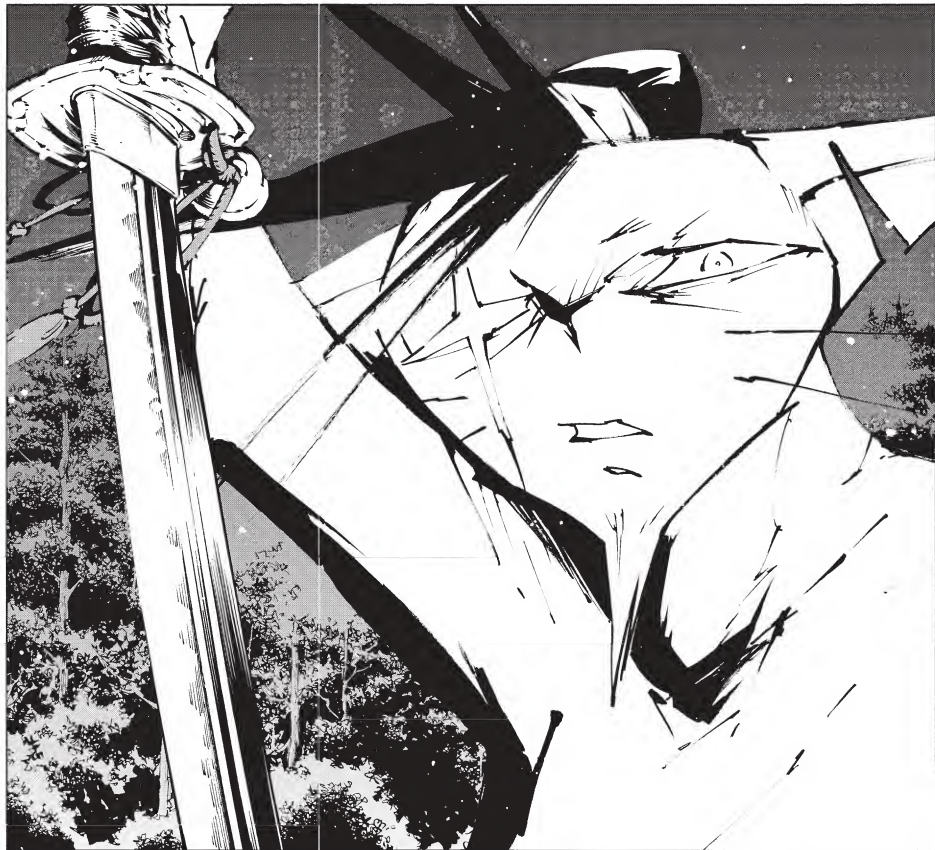
THE ONE
THING
I KNOW
FOR SURE
IS THAT
I'VE SEEN
THAT
CREST
BEFORE.

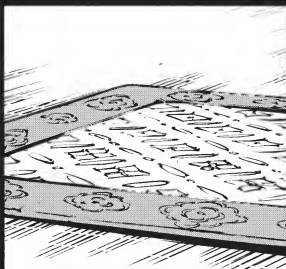




...THAT
MASTER
MUST HAVE
BEEN ONE
HELL OF
GUY.

IN
YOUR
EYES...







*...MY
LORD.*

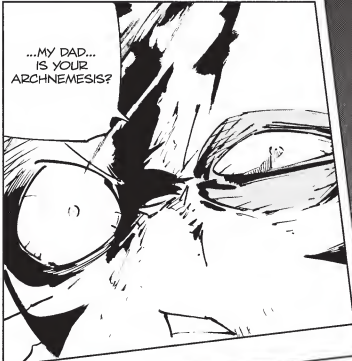












...MY DAD...
IS YOUR
ARCHNEMESIS?



NOW I
REMEM-
BER...

THAT
CREST
BELONGS
TO ISHIDAI
TSUNARI,
THE LORD
OF OMEOW
PROVINCE
CAS...



THE
SCENT
OF
SHAKE-
GAWA...
AMEMURA'S
KEEPER!

THE
SCENT OF
MY VILE
ARCH-
NEMESIS,
THE MAN
WHO
DROVE
OUT MY
MASTER.

KA-CHAK



DO ME
A FAVOR
AND DIE.
NOW.

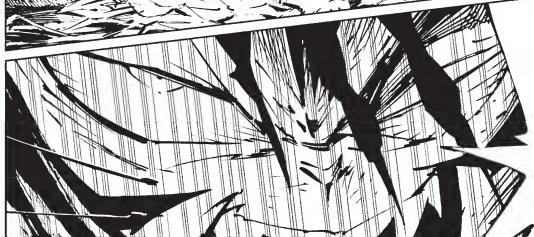
IF YOU
DON'T GET
OFF MY TAIL,
I'M GOING TO
HAVE MORE
PROBLEMS
THAN
I NEED.





WELL,
WELL.

HE'S
MORE
ABLE-
BODIED
THAN I
THOUGHT.



MY
OWN
UNIQUE
WEAPON
!!!

WHOOOSH

FIP

WITH
THIS!

WHACK

...HEH.

YOU BIRD
BRAIN! YOU
MUST BE OUT
OF YOUR MIND,
BRINGING A TOY
TO A LIFE
OR DEATH
STRUGGLE!

HEH!

THE
KEN-
DAMA'S
STRING.
IT'S-?!
YOU'LL
NEVER
CUT IT.



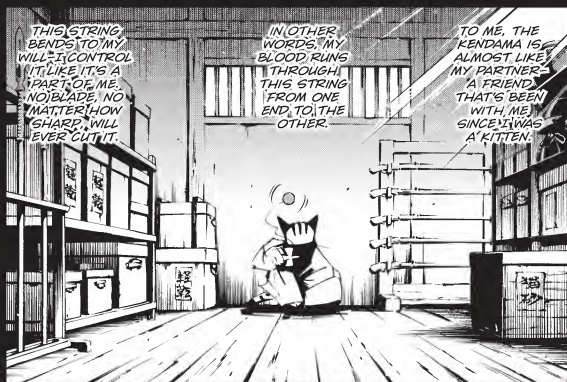
AMATEURS
ARE ALWAYS
LOOKING AT
THE HILT AND
THE BALL, BUT
THOSE ARE
JUST EASY
TARGETS.

IT'S NOT
UNTIL YOU
CAN
CONTROL
THE STRING
THAT YOU
START TO
MASTER
THE SKILL.



THE
SECRET TO
THE KENDAMA
ISN'T IN THE
HILT OR THE
BALL-IT'S
IN THE
STRING.

!



BOX: KITTY LITTER

THIS STRING
BENDS TO MY
WILL. I CONTROL
IT LIKE IT'S A
PART OF ME.
NO BLADE, NO
MATTER HOW
SHARP, WILL
EVER CUT IT.

IN OTHER
WORDS, MY
BLOOD RUNS
THROUGH
THIS STRING
FROM ONE
END TO THE
OTHER.

TO ME, THE
KENDAMA IS
ALMOST LIKE
MY PARTNER -
A FRIEND
THAT'S BEEN
WITH ME
SINCE I WAS
A KITTEN.



UNTIL
FINALLY IT
HITS ITS
MARK.

YOU
DEFLECTED
THE BALL...
BUT THE MORE
IT WRAPS
AROUND
YOUR SWORD,
THE FASTER IT
GOES.



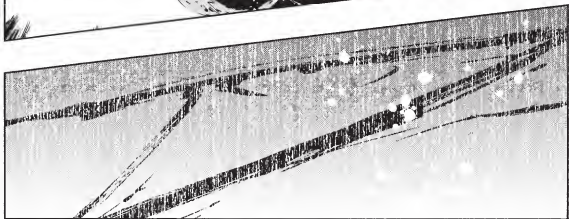
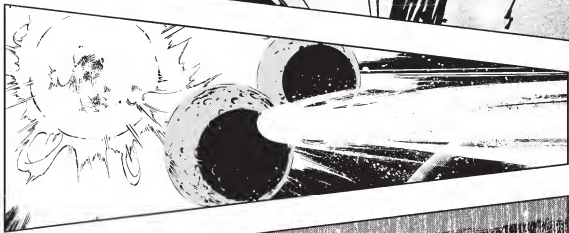


GO!

**FINISHING
MOVE!!
NETHER-
WORLD
SOUL-
REAPER!**

GRNK









AND THIS...
WAS MY
WEAPON!



HUFF

HOW'S
THAT, DOG-
GONE IT?
I BEAT
HIM!

HUFF

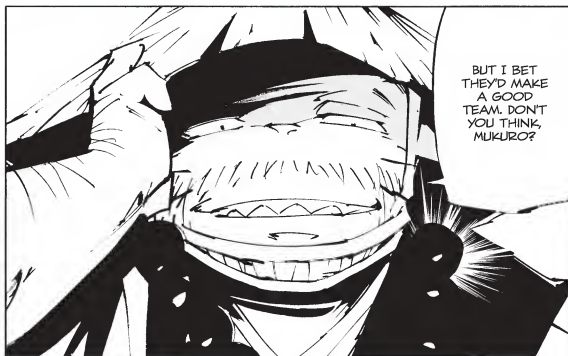


I DID
IT...



DID
YOU
SEE
THAT,
CATS
?!

I
BEAT
HIM!!!
RR-
RAAA-
AARR!!!



TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3...



ネ

コ

ガ

Nekogattaro

EXTRA CHAPTER:
BEARING TROUBLE
AWAY BY BEARING
TALES

ハ

フ

HIROYUKI
TAKEI

lafe





ANYWAY,
IT'S THAT
WACKJOB
SAMURAI.

NO, I
MEAN
...

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

JACKET: OTAMAYA

DO YOU
CATS KNOW
ABOUT THE
LANDLORD
WHO OWNED
THE VILLAGE
ON THE
RIDGE?

HIS
NAME
WAS...
WHAT
WAS IT
AGAIN?

I'M
TELLING
YOU,
MY LIFE
IS THE
PITS!





SO
HE'S A
HERO.

CLAMOR
CLAMOR

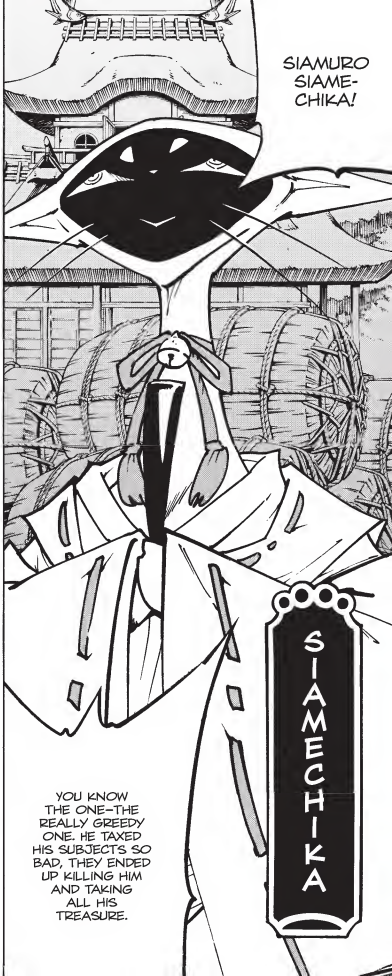
OH, YEAH...
I NEVER
DID HEAR
ANYTHING
GOOD
ABOUT
HIM.

AND IT
WAS THAT
SAMURAI
THAT
TOOK
HIM OUT,
RIGHT?

CLAMOR

大玉屋

DON'T
BE STUPID!
I KNOW WHAT
IT SOUNDS LIKE,
BUT THERE'S
MORE TO THIS
STORY!



SIAMURO
SIAME-
CHIKA!

S
I
A
M
E
C
H
I
K
A

YOU KNOW
THE ONE-THE
REALLY GREEDY
ONE. HE TAXED
HIS SUBJECTS SO
BAD, THEY ENDED
UP KILLING HIM
AND TAKING
ALL HIS
TREASURE.

WHEN THE
VILLAGERS
TRIED TO
LEAVE THE
MANSION
WITH THE
LANDLORD'S
TREASURE,
THAT SAMURAI
KILLED THEM,
TOO!

BELIEVE
IT OR
NOT!



AND
THAT'S
NOT
ALL.

HELL IF I
KNOW. HE
PROBABLY
WANTED TO
KEEP THE
TREASURE
FOR HIM-
SELF.

HAVE
YOU CATS
HEARD
ABOUT
WHAT
HAPPENED
AT THE
PORT
TOWN?

SON
OF A--!
WHY
WOULD
HE DO
THAT?

WHA
?!

INNOCENT
VILLAGERS
WHO DID
NOTHING
WRONG?!



GOOD
RIDDANCE,
I SAY.

AND THAT
SAMURAI
KILLED
'EM ALL,
RIGHT?

OH YEAH...I
HEARD ABOUT
HIM. THAT
DOGGONE
KITTEN AND
HIS PUNK
FRIENDS
WERE A REAL
NUISANCE.

DON'T BE
STUPID! I
KNOW WHAT
IT SOUNDS
LIKE, BUT
THERE'S
MORE TO
THIS STORY!

BANNERS: CATNIP KING



AMEMURA
SHORT!

AMEMURA
RICAN'S
DEADBEAT SON-
THE MOG WHO
WENT AROUND
WITH HIS GANG
OF HOODLUMS
DEALING 'NIP!

SHORT

THE SAMURAI
WAS ONLY IN
TOWN TO BEGIN
WITH TO BUY HIS
OWN DANGEROUS
PASTIME, AND
WHEN THOSE
CATTLINGS
HAPPENED TO
TANGLE WITH THE
WRONG TOM, HE
KILLED 'EM AND
TOOK ALL
THEIR 'NIP!

BELIEVE
IT OR
NOT!



THIS
HAPPENED
TO A GUEST
AT MY
ESTABLISH-
MENT, SO
I CAN'T GO
AROUND SAY-
ING IT TOO
LOUD, BUT...

THERE'S
MORE.

HIS NAME
WAS...
WHAT WAS
IT AGAIN?

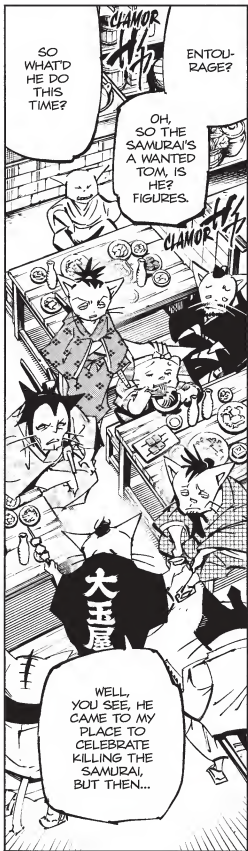


IN
THAT CASE,
I GUESS
I DO FEEL
SORRY FOR
THE LITTLE
KITTENS.

WHAAA
?!!!

SO HE'S
A THIEF
AND A
JUNKIE?!





SO
WHAT'D
HE DO
THIS
TIME?

ENTOU-
RAGE?

OH,
SO THE
SAMURAI'S
A WANTED
TOM, IS
HE?
FIGURES.

WELL,
YOU SEE,
HE CAME TO MY
PLACE TO
CELEBRATE
KILLING THE
SAMURAI,
BUT THEN...

FANI CUT HIM DOWN! FANI SHISHI-WAKA-SAWA



NORWE
SHISHI-
WAKA!!

S
H
I
S
H
I
-
W
A
K
A

THAT SELF-
PROCLAIMED
"BEAUTIFUL
SWORDSFELINE"
WHO'S GOING
AROUND THE
COUNTRY WITH
HIS ENTOURAGE,
TRYING TO MAKE
A NAME FOR
HIMSELF AS
A BOUNTY
HUNTER!

THAT
SAMURAI
HID IN THE
KITTY
LITTER AND
RAMMED
A HOOK
UP HIS
ASS!!!

BELIEVE
IT OR
NOT!



AND HE WAS
BARELY ALIVE
AFTER TAKING
A SWORD TO
THE BACK.
HE COULDN'T
FIGHT IN ANY
OTHER WAY.

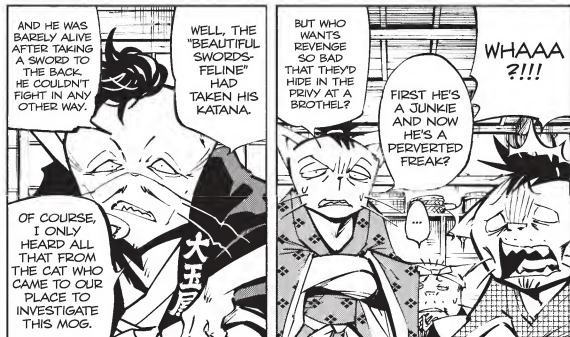
WELL, THE
"BEAUTIFUL
SWORDS-
FELINE"
HAD
TAKEN HIS
KATANA.

OF COURSE,
I ONLY
HEARD ALL
THAT FROM
THE CAT WHO
CAME TO OUR
PLACE TO
INVESTIGATE
THIS MOG.

BUT WHO
WANTS
REVENGE
SO BAD
THAT THEY'D
HIDE IN THE
PRIVY AT A
BROTHEL?

WHAAA
?!!!

FIRST HE'S
A JUNKIE
AND NOW
HE'S A
PERVERSED
FREAK?



ACCORDING
TO HIM, THE
SAMURAI'S
NAME IS
**NORA-
CHIYO.**



A CERTAIN
PERSON
TOOK HIM
IN WHEN
HE WAS A
KITTEN.

THEY GOT
SEPARATED IN
THE WAR, SO
EVEN THOUGH
HE'S GETTING
ON IN YEARS,
THE MOG'S
STILL GOT HIS
CHILDHOOD
NAME.

SHIRIYA
ABYHEI.



ABYHEI

A MEMBER OF
THE SPECIAL
SECRET POLICE
FORCE, STRAIGHT
FROM THE
GOVERNMENT!!
HE'S BEEN AFTER
THIS SAMURAI
FOR YEARS!



STILL,
THAT DOESN'T
MEAN WE CAN
LET WIDDLE
NORACHIYO-
CHAN OFF
THE HOOK!
AM I RIGHT?!

HA HA!
SO HE'S JUST
MOPING AROUND
BECAUSE HIS BE-
LOVED PERSON
ABANDONED
HIM!

HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!
AN
OLD MOG,
GOING BY
NORACHIYO!

GYA HA
HA HA!
WHAT A
LOSER!



NORA...



...CHIYO?



AND
HE'S STILL
HANGING THAT
BELL-THE
SYMBOL OF
A KEPT CAT-
FROM HIS
KATANA, THE
SHAMELESS
MOG.



HIS EAR
IS TORN
SO BADLY
IT LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
ABOUT TO
FALL OFF.



HE HAS
A CROSS-
SHAPED
SCAR
OVER
HIS EYE

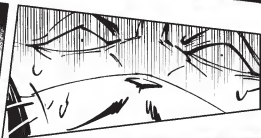
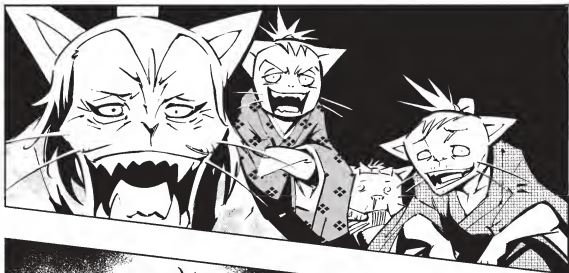
AND MORE
THAN ANYTHING,
HE STINKS TO
HIGH HEAVEN.
ANYONE WOULD
KNOW HIM THE
MINUTE THEY
SAW...

EX-
CUSE
ME.

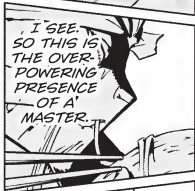
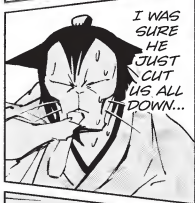
RUSTLE

大玉屋

大玉屋







THIS
PLACE
SMELLS
LIKE
PISS.

HM?

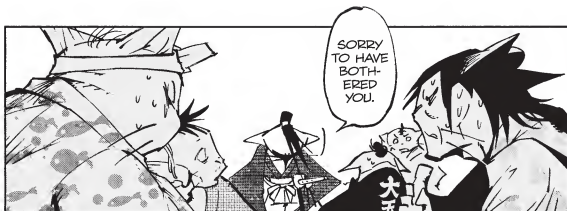
GASP!

GASP!

NO
WONDER
EVERYONE
GOT SO
QUIET WHEN
I WALKED
IN.

OH.
I DON'T
THINK I'VE
HAD A BATH
SINCE I WENT
BURROWING
IN THE KITTY
LITTER.







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ラ

**SPECIAL
MANGA
IN HONOR
OF THE
NEKOGAHARA/
NOBUNYAGA'S
AMBITION
COLLABORATION**

IN AN
ATTEMPT TO
VANQUISH THE
MINOR DAIMYŌ
ODA NOBUNYAGA,
IMYAGAWA
YOSHIMOTO OF
SURUGA LED AN
ARMY OF 25,000
INTO OWARI AND
TOOK UP CAMP
AT MT.
OKEHAZAMA.

ON THE
19TH DAY
OF THE
FIFTH
MONTH,
IN THE
THIRD
YEAR OF
EIROKU*...



*JUNE 12, 1560

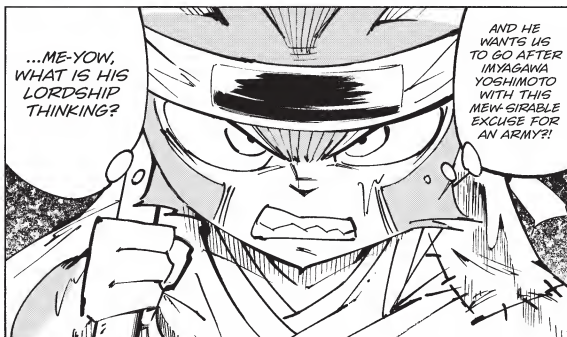
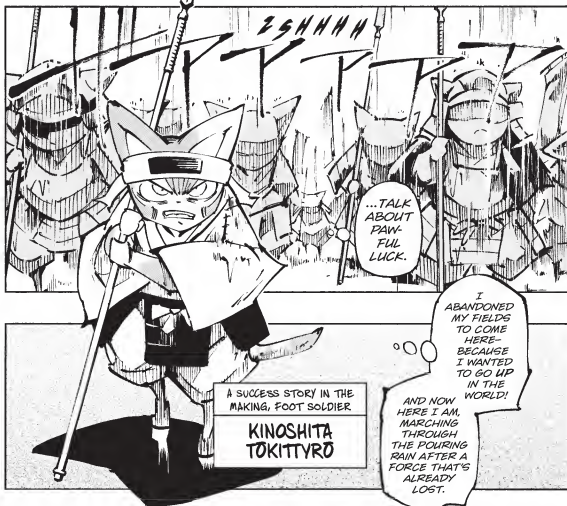
THIS
EVENT
WOULD
COME TO
BE KNOWN
AS THE
BATTLE OF
OKEHAZAMA.

NEVER-
THELESS,
AGAINST ALL
ODDS, THE
ODA ARMY
WENT FORTH,
THROUGH
TORRENTIAL
RAIN, TO
IMYAGAWA'S
MAIN CAMP
AT MT.
OKEHAZAMA.

HAVING
SUFFERED
DEFEAT
UPON
DEFEAT,
ODA'S ARMY
COULD LEAVE
ONLY A FEW
HUNDRED
SOLDIERS
AT THE
WESTERN
FRONT BY
MARUNE
FORTRESS...

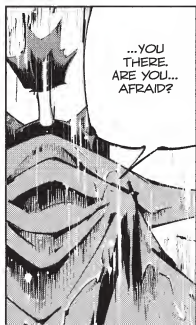
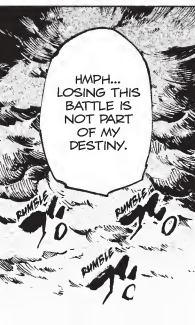
ODA
HAD AN
ARMY OF
A MERE
4,000 WITH
WHICH
TO MEET
HIM.





...ODA
NOBU-
NYAGA!!

YOU'RE
A DOG-
GONE
FOOL...



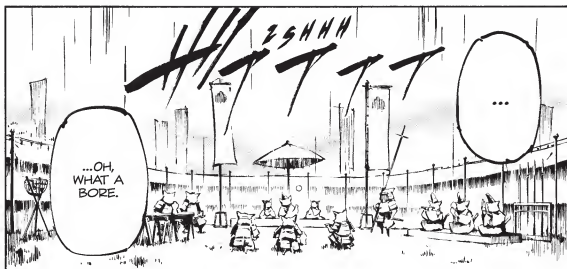
KA-
CRACK

I,
ODA
NOBU-
NYAGA...

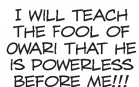
...WILL
CREATE
ONE
REALM
UNDER
ONE
CAT.

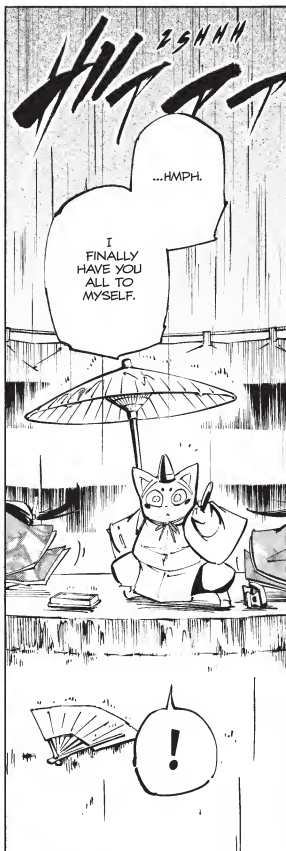
ODA
NOBUNYAGA'S
AMBITION

HIROYUKI
TAKEI











RIP

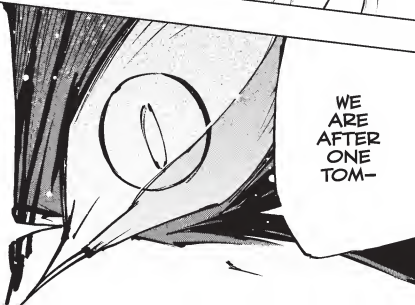
FWOOSH

I KNEW
THIS
TORRENT
WOULD
MASK OUR
APPROACH.



NOW IS THE
MOMENT OF
TRUTH. PAY
NO HEED TO
THE OTHER
SOLDIERS.

IMYA-
GAWA
YOSHI-
MOTO,
AND HIM
ALONE.



WE
ARE
AFTER
ONE
TOM-



...RRREALLY
DEFEATED
THE FAMOUS
IMYAGAWA
YOSHI-
MOTO!!!

BO-BOOM

OUR
LORD-
SHIP...



I
DON'T
BE-
LIEVE
IT!

I...

IN THE
WARRING
STATES' ERA,
WARLORD
FOUGHT
WARLORD FOR
SUPREMACY.
THE FELINE
COMMANDERS
SHED EACH
OTHER'S BLOOD
IN THEIR CLIMB
TO THE TOP.



IN THE
END, THE
ONE TO
GAIN THE
ENTIRE
NATION
WOULD
BE...

ODA
NOBUNYAGA'S
AMBITION

THIS-
THIS-
IS
NOBU-
NYAGA'S
AMBITION
!!!

I WILL
CREATE
ONE
REALM
UNDER
ONE
CAT!

TRANSLATION NOTES

Wakizashi, page 22



Meaning “side insert,” a *wakizashi* is a sword worn at a warrior's side along with his longer katana as a symbol of his samurai status. This blade can be used as a backup sword, or for closer combat.

Okakatō, page 23



The name of Mukuro's secret weapon literally means “bonito flakes blade,” where bonito is a type of fish—possibly one of Mukuro's favorites. Or perhaps she named her sword after the tasty treat because together, *okakatō* means “heel,” as in “the heel of the foot.”

Himemasu Castle, page 32

This castle bears a striking resemblance to the real life historical fortress, Himeji Castle, which was awarded by the shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu to his son-in-law for the latter's service in the battle of Sekigahara. The name Himemasu may be more palatable to the characters of *Nekogahara*, as it is the Japanese word for the sockeye salmon, and it is ruled by the Shakegawa, whose name means “salmon skin”.

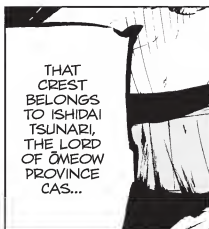




I used the back of my sword, page 90

The katana used by samurai is a single-edged sword, meaning it's sharp on one side and blunt on the other. Striking one's enemy with the blunt side of the blade is a way to teach them a lesson while letting them live to remember it.

Ishidai Tsunari, page 121



The name of the man Short is remembering will perhaps bring two things to the mind of a Japanese reader. The first is the striped beakfish, or *ishidai*. A few of these fish became famous for taking up residence in a ship that broke loose and went adrift after the Tohoku Earthquake and following tsunami in 2011, earning them the name “tsunami fish.” The second thing Japanese readers will remember is the name Ishida Mitsunari, who was a military commander who fought, and lost, in the battle of Sekigahara.

Netherworld Soul-Reaper, page 129

The name of Short's special move is rife with wordplay. In Japanese, it is *jigoku no kama-otoshi*. The first part, *jigoku no*, is straightforward enough, meaning “of or relating to hell, the netherworld, etc.” *Kama-otoshi* can mean “sickle drop,” as in bringing a sickle down either to harvest grain or to strike an enemy. In Japan, a small sickle was often connected to a heavy weight via a chain, creating a weapon not entirely unlike Short's kendama. *Kama* is also the word for the



head of a fish, and *kama-otoshi* is the removal of the fish's head in preparation for cooking, hence the alternate spelling for this attack name: Netherworld Sole-Reaper.

Nobunyaga's Ambition, page 156

Nobunyaga's Ambition is a spinoff of the *Nobunaga's Ambition* game series, in which all the characters—who are real Japanese historical figures—are reimagined as cats. It's a social game that can be played on mobile devices, and for a time was available in North America as *Samurai Cats*. The game had a collaboration with this manga series, in which players could obtain in-game items featuring artwork by Hiroyuki Takei.

Success story in the making, page 160



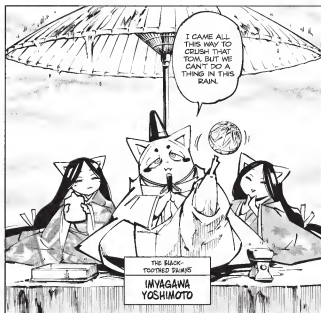
Kinoshita Tōkittyō, known in human form as Kinoshita Tōkichirō, began his career as a lowly foot soldier, but eventually became the successor to Nobunaga himself and the second of Japan's unifiers, who put an end to the Warring States Period.

One realm under one cat, page 162

This is the feline version of one translation of Oda Nobunaga's historical slogan, *tenka fubu*, or "one realm under one sword." The slogan, which he used on his personal seal to sign all written correspondence, announced his intention to unify the nation, which up to that point had been in a state of constant civil war.



The Black-Toothed Daimyō, page 164



Imyagawa is seen here wearing the traditional dress of the nobles of his time, including the black lacquer over his teeth. Even though he was busy waging war, he still took the time to apply his makeup as a sign of his courtly sensibilities.

Nekogahara 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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First published in Japan in 2016 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

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English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682335505

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Alethea Nibley & Athena Nibley

Lettering: Scott O. Brown

Editing: Ajani Oloye

Kodansha Comics edition cover design: Phil Balsman

